

From: [Ann Parker](#)
To: [Billington, Tracie;](#)
CC: [sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov;](mailto:sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov)
Subject: We need your help!
Date: Monday, February 05, 2007 7:03:44 PM
Attachments:

2/5/07

Ms. Tracie Billington
Department of Water Resources
tracieb@water.ca.gov

Dear Ms. Billington:

We need your help! Please, please help us -- by awarding grant money to Santa Cruz County Public Works, for the Davenport Sanitation District's grant proposal.

We here in the little town of Davenport are required by the State Department of Health to provide a water treatment plant, to comply with new water quality standards during winter flows. Our small, rural community of 350 residents must purchase a \$70,000 new water treatment facility.

It is shocking how our water fees, billed through homeowners' property taxes, have risen. In 2002, water rates were \$312 a year. **This year, our rates rose 70% -- from \$715 in 2005 to \$1,200 in 2006. They are expected to rise another \$200 in 2007.** We have numerous retired residents on fixed incomes, low-income families and single-parent families -- these rates are a major hardship.

And we can't drink our water, for the 2nd year in a row! Due to the new standards, residents have been advised to boil drinking and cooking water for safety during the winter months. It tastes terrible, and the turbidity is so high that it prevents the system from filtering it properly. This is like being in a third-world country.

The local Pacific Elementary school is also being asked to pay exorbitant rates for water that has been declared non-potable. Pacific Elementary has 120 students

and 30 employees who are drinking bottled water -- while paying \$3,225 for water service charges plus an additional \$1,200 for water fees via property taxes!

This would be ludicrous if it all wasn't so downright obscene: poor people being asked to spend ridiculous amounts and people who are suffering -- and leaving our little community, because they can't afford to live here.

I beg you to approve funding for Santa Cruz County Public Works proposal -- under the Proposition 50 Integrated Regional Water Management Implementation Grant Program.

Please, help us. Thank you.

Ann Parker



Cc: Ms. Shala Farahnak, State Water Resources Control Board
sfarahnak@waterboards.ca.gov